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REMARKS

Claims 2-6 are currently in this application with claim 1 having been previously cancelled and claim 4 is amended herein. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner is thanked for withdrawing the prior rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and under § 112, second paragraph.

In the office action of October 2, 2006, claims 2-6 are rejected 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Specifically, the office action highlights instances in claim 4 which are alleged to be indefinite. In an effort to clarify the limitations of claim 4, it has been amended to recite:

a plurality of interface boards having a path on which a multiplexed signal is transmitted and connected to the cross-connect portion; and

Based on these amendments it is believed that the substantive bases for the rejection have been addressed.

The office action also indicates an issue between the terms branch, directing and routing. These terms are used in claim 4, and though they may have somewhat similar meaning their specific meaning here is clear from the language of the claim.

"Branch" refers to the switchboard that through cross connection allows a packet signal to be carried on one of several paths.

"Directed" refers specifically to the packet and the path it is to be transmitted on. In context this the phrase is "a packet to be directed" meaning that the packet is yet to be acted upon or directed.

"Routed" refers to the actual act upon the packet and is related to the sending of the packet to a predetermined path.

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Based on the foregoing, derived from the plain language of claim 4, it is believed that the use of these terms in claim 4 is not indefinite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 2-6 are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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